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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS.

VERTICAL

U. S. Department of Agriculture
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Cooperating.

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GUMMED-PAPER DRESS FORM.

With the assistance of two or three friends, a woman can easily make for herself at small expense a heavy paper dress form that will reproduce exactly the lines of her figure and be a most valuable aid in home dressmaking.

MATERIALS NEEDED.

1. Shirt. A cotton gauze shirt with high neck, and cap or long sleeves. The shirt may be of any weight, but must fit the figure very snugly, and extend below the fullest part of the hips. For a figure with 48 bust measure, a 36 size is large enough; for a figure of 38, a 16-year size.
2. Paper. One 6 inch roll of inch-wide gummed paper such as is now used by many firms in fastening up packages. There are several satisfactory brands, among them Liberty, Kraft, Dennison. The weight should be from 35-40 ounces per roll.
3. Cardboard. A piece of heavy cardboard sufficiently large to form a base for the form at the largest part of the hips.
4. Other Materials. A sponge, or soft cloth, small basin of water, needle and thread, sharp scissors, pencil, yardstick, tape line, and razor blade.
5. The Model. Should be dressed in a tight fitting brassiere or corset cover and a smoothly fitting underskirt, over the corset.

METHOD OF PROCEDURE.

Preparation.

Take neck, bust, waist and hip measures.

Cut buttons off the front of the shirt.

Tear or cut the paper in strips of required lengths.

Place the shirt on the person.

Cut off a part of the sleeves, or a piece about $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide by 10" long from the tail of the shirt. Baste this around the neck to make a collar, lapping it in front.

Sew the front together as though it were buttoned.

Have a sponge or cloth and water ready.

Construction.

First Coat. (a) Pull the shirt down tightly over the hips. Paste a strip of the paper around the waist line, lapping the ends. This holds the shirt close to the figure.

Begin at the center front and paste a strip from the collar to the bottom of the shirt.

On each side of this strip place other strips, lapping them about one-fourth inch. If the figure is slight the strip may be continued to the bottom of the vest. For a full figure or over a full bust it may be necessary to use separate pieces above and below the waist line.

The important consideration is to have the paper fit smoothly without wrinkles.

The strips on the bust may curve toward the center. When they do this tear off the surplus paper after it is lapped on the other strips.

Place the strips on the back, as for the front.

Use short strips to extend the shoulder.

For a full figure fill in the space from the under arm to the waist line with slanting strips; for slight figure, with horizontal strips.

Fill in the triangular spaces left between the strips over the hips with shorter strips.

The first coat should completely cover the shirt, and should extend just below the fullest part of the hips.

Second Coat. (b) Brace the first coat above the waist by placing two or three short strips horizontally at the front and back below the base of the neck.

Brace it below the waist by placing several strips diagonally from the waist line to the bottom of the vest, extending in both directions and lapping at the center. A full figure requires more strips than a slight one.

Place strips from the shoulder at the neck so they slant toward the center front and center back. These should cross at center front and back. They may be continued all the way across the figure which will give approximately three layers of paper. In this case the form will require a roll and a half of paper.

Continue this slant to the waist line. The strips may curve toward the center over the fullest part of the figure.

Cover the back in the same way. Be sure that the strips lap on the shoulders.

Place strips below the waist as in the first coat.

Cover the ends around the waist line with one or two strips.

To make sleeve caps, paste a horizontal strip around the arm as far down as it is desired to have the cap extend. Above this place horizontal strips as far as possible and finally fill in with vertical strips of varying lengths as needed. These strips may be continuous from the neck down.

Place one or two strips from neck and to tip of shoulder to cover the ends of second coat.

Place two strips snugly around the neck, pasting them firmly to the foundation collar and over the ends of the strips around the neck.

(c) Marking and Taking Off. Take neck, bust, waist and hip measure.

With a yardstick and pencil mark down the center back and draw a line around the hips parallel with the floor at the largest measure.

With a safety razor blade or a pair of sharp scissors cut down the center back on the line marked and remove form.

Trim the lower edges on the line drawn from the hips, and the armholes on the creases, unless the shoulder cap has been made.

The waist of the form will be larger than that of the normal figure. To reduce it to the true measure, mark on each side of the back half the difference between the true measure and the size of the form. Cut off the amount marked.

(d) Putting the Form Together. Cut a strip the full length of the form. Paste it under one side of the back and bring the two sides of the back together.

Brace the joining by placing $2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips across the cut from top to bottom of the form.

Over these horizontal strips place three long strips from the neck to the bottom of form.

Test the form to see if it stands level. If it does not, trim it where needed.

Finish the neck by pasting a strip around it. Slash one edge of a piece of tape to the center, and use it for a final binding on the neck, letting the slashed edge come inside. Bind the armhole or bottom of sleeve cap in the same way.

Stand the form on a piece of heavy cardboard and mark around the lower edge. Cut on this line. Shellac the form outside and let stand over night.

Dampen half of each of the two and one-half inch strips of paper and paste them around the cardboard base, as was done before combining the sections. Set the form on the base; dampen the other half of the short strips and paste them on the form.

The Standard. If a standard is desired, one may be made by a carpenter which can serve when not needed for dressmaking operations as a plant stand. A simple homemade base may be made by sawing out a wooden disc the shape of the cardboard base and attaching to it a strong vertical stick to which cross pieces have been nailed. The standard should be the proper height to allow the mounted form to be the exact height of the person.